(e) The proposal for Shantivan bridge has been dropped.

Water and Sewer connection to Middle School in Vasant Vihar

3240. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that in Vasant Vihar Centrel Government Housing Complex, Middle School is running in Tents by the Delhi Administration in which the water and Sewer connection still to be given by the CPWD authorities ;

(b) whether the CPWD aurhorities have not bothered to give such connection to this school during the last two years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the same facility would be provided to the school keeping in view of the difficulty of the children/students of this school ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) to (c) it is correct that a school is being run by the Delhi Administration in the Vasant Vihar Housing comp'ex. Pending issue of formal allotment letter & the school was temporarily allowed by the L&DO to pitch tents. The water & sewer connection could not however be provided to the school as the school authorities had pitched their tents in the area earmarked for the C.G.H.S. dispensary instead of the area earmarked for the school. Despite the formit allotment letter having been issued by the Land & Development Office in 1988, the school authorities have not so far shifted their tents to the allotted land. Water & sewer connection will be provided as soon as the school is shifted to the allotted land.

Allotment of land to schools of Delhi Administration in Vasant Vihar

3241. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA : will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether allotment of land or opening of MCD Primary School and Middle School of Delhi Administration in Vasant Vihar Central Government Housing Complex, New Delhi has not been made by the L&DO ;

(b) Whether possession of the land has also not been handed over to these departments by CPWD; if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) by when the possession is likely to be given to these Departments by the CPWD ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Allotments to those schools have been made.

(b) and (c) The L & DO has reported that there are encroachements on these lands and steps have already been initiated to remove these encroachments before handing over the possession of lands to the Delhi admn. and M.C.D.

Allotment of land to journalists in Banglore

3242. SHRI SUBARAMIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government of Karnataka on a special allotment made by the then Chief Minister, had provided plots for housing in Banglore for journalists or their close relatives during the last three years ; and

(b) If so, the names of those journalists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) 'Housing' is a State subject and all States/UTs are free to formulate and implement all social housing schemes keeeping in view their local needs and plan priorities. The Central Govt. has therefore no information in this regard.

Production of steel in the Country

3243. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the MINISTER of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of production of steel in India is the highest amongst the major steel producing countries ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken or proposed to reduce the cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b) As no authentic information on the cost of production of steel in other countries is available, it is not possible to compare the cost of production in those countries with that in India.

(c) Efforts to contain cost of production include ;

(i) increasing the utilization of installed capacity ;

(ii) improving productivity ;

(iii) energy conservation measures ;

(iv) improving maintenance ;

(v) timely modernization and balancing investments.

Assistance for development of backward areas in Maharashtra

3244. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested for assistance for the development of backward areas of Gadchiroli district and selected areas of Chandrapur district which are mainly inhabited by Scheduled Tribes and Primitive tribes; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the State Government has proposed an investment of Rs. 195·34 crores phased over a period of four years, under the on going schemes in different sector of development such as Roads Rural Electrification, Public Health, Agriculture and Irrigation etc. in the backward areas of Gadchiroli district and parts of Chandrapur district. The State Government has been advised that they should approach the planning Commission for enhanced allocation of funds during Eighth Plan under these sectors in view of the increased investments specially proposed for these areas.